

## MEMO

**To: J.D. Lee, Acting Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY)**  
**From: Big Cypress Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee (ORVAC)**  
**Re: Recommendation for Vehicle Specifications for the ORV Trail System**  
**Date: March 20, 2014**

At its August 28, 2013 meeting, the ORVAC concluded a round of discussions related to recommendations for vehicle specifications for use on the Big Cypress National Preserve off-road vehicle trail system. These discussions were informed by the thoughtful work of the BICY ORVAC Vehicle Specifications Subcommittee. Through these discussions we developed the following recommendations for your consideration, with the understanding that, as always, your staff will be assessing the viability of these recommendations through careful ground-truthing. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

The ORVAC recommends the following:

1. That the following language be included in the ATV/Class C category related to the proposed 4-wheel drive capable requirement, assuming that this language will be modified by NPS to be in accordance with state and federal statutes: *"Exceptions for the disabled are possible on a case-by-case basis, consistent with federal statutes."*
2. That vehicle specifications for all classes of vehicles include the following guidance as to operation expectations: *"Vehicle operation must be consistent with the Preserve's Appropriate and Inappropriate Use Statement, so as to assure resource and infrastructure sustainability."* The ORVAC recommends that BICY continue appropriate education, training and enforcement to assure compliance.
3. That BICY adopt the following revised vehicle class descriptions:

### **Class A Vehicles: Airboats**

- Working white aft light to be seen 360-degrees
- Hull length 14' maximum, excluding grass rake
- Width 8' maximum, measured horizontally at the break
- Must have an automotive-style factory muffler, per Florida Statute 327.391
- Minimum of 6-inch FL numbers displayed on each side of the bow OR minimum 6" FL numbers displayed on each side of the rudders.
- Orange safety flag 10" x 12" or larger flown at least 10-feet above the lowest part of the vessel and visible from any direction.
- Fire extinguisher
- Personal flotation devices (Life Jackets)
- Port and starboard lights (Coast Guard requirement)
- Hull identification number

**Class B Vehicles: Swamp Buggies**

- Tire width minimum of 9-inches on front, and 12-inches on rear of all buggies, with the exception of previously permitted vehicles with at least 9-inch rear wheels
- Width 8-feet maximum
- Working white headlight(s)
- Working red tail light
- Working muffler, engine sound not to exceed 60 decibels at 50-feet
- Class B includes vehicles that are unclassifiable under vehicle categories A, C, D, or E

**Class C Vehicles: All-Terrain Vehicles**

- Front tires 7-inch minimum
- Rear tires 9-inch minimum
- Working white headlight
- Working red tail light
- VIN number and title
- Working muffler, engine sound not to exceed 60 decibels at 50-feet
- Four-wheel drive capable

**Class D Vehicles: Street Legal 4 x 4**

- All tires 9-inch minimum
- Working white headlights
- Working red tail lights
- Four-wheel drive capable
- Working muffler, engine sound not to exceed 60 decibels at 50-feet
- Current registration, insurance and VIN number

**Class E Vehicles: Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV)/Side-by-side**

*Note: The ORVAC recommends that these vehicles be moved from Class B Swamp Buggies to the new Class E.*

- All tires minimum 9-inches
- Working white headlight(s)
- Working red tail light
- Width 8-foot maximum
- Working muffler, engine sound not to exceed 60 decibels at 50-feet
- VIN number and title
- Four-wheel drive capable